It's Spring!

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOD TIMES

Vol. 19 #4 PAW PAW MIDDLE SCHOOL, PAW PAW, MI 25¢ APRIL 1993

What Signifies Spring to You?

The first sign of spring occurs when "The snow melts and it is getting warmer," said Autumn Koppers. Beth Tapper's idea of spring in the air is "Hudson's anniversary sale." Kristen Stoynoff said "It's when my brother is nice to me. I don't think spring ever comes."

Mr. Erickson said, "The first robin back from the sunny South and the smell of rotted grass with its ever-present molds -they make me sneeze." David Bush thinks it's spring when "the courts are clear and I can play basketball." For Hanah Terrell, it's when 'I stop being grouchy."

Heidi Wilhelmi said, " When Punxatawny Phil comes out of his hole."

Holly Waite probably sums it up for all of you when she says, "Warmer weather." Amen.

Bunny Substitutes

If the Easter bunny were laid up with a broken leg and needed a replacement, what animal would be able to sub for him?

Kurt Strasser suggested the live egg.(?) Kim Adkins thought maybe a go-go bird. Mony Matyas said how about a dodo bunny. Matt Weller mentioned an Easter cobra. Justin Hathaway could see the role played by an Easter lemur.

Most of us were baffled. I guess we better hope the Bunny can handle the big week-end ahead.

Notice!

April 16- school dance

May events

May 13- choir concert

May 22- 8th grade annual dance

May 27 -8th grade field trip

8th grade Tours High School

The eighth graders went to the high school March 16 and 18 for orientation and information on signing up for high school.

We had PALs show us around the building. They pointed out the nice and the mean teachers. It was kind of interesting. We had lunch there and they have better food for sale than we do.

Following the orientation, we signed up for ninth grade classes.

It is my opinion that the high school is very big and you could easily get lost in it.

k. adkins

Volleyball Season Success

The eighth grade volleyball teams had very successful seasons this year under the coaching of Leslie Snow.

Split into two teams, the team consisted of 16 people: Amanda Alexander, Jeena Bowers, Shannon Streich, Kari Vesey, Am Stimac, Sara Weaver, Jessica Silber, Kim Adkins, Kim Abshagen, Angela "Eddie " Edwards, Angela Lanter, Lisa Satyut, Lisa Leathers, Molly Kuntz, and Heather Labadie.

The B team consisted of 15 people. They were Brooke Guernsey, Karis Consolatti, Amber Major, Erryn Rice, Jasmin Baker, Dannie Drake, Jessa Bogema, Katy Rock, Aimee Offord Alyssa Munger, Carrie Watts, Lisa White, Liz Rumbaugh, Teres Garcia, and Emily WRay.

At the tournament in Galesburg-Augusta, the eighth grade A team placed first over Galesburg-Augusta, Climax-Scotts, and Delton.

a.alexander

SMOKING ON School Grounds?

Smoking on the school grounds. What can we do about it? How can we stop it or should we just allow it?

There is an estimated three out of every ten people who smoke and attend our school. They smoke out by the basketballl court or at the football field. Some people even smoke right next to the school.

Many people think that since so many people smoke they should have places to smoke on school grounds. Other people think that you should be able to smoke in the halls and in classes whenever they want to. Still others think it should remain banned altogether.

We think smoking should be banned throughout all of school. We also think people caught smoking should be punished.

by j. zinkil

ONE TEEN'S OPINION - DRUGS

I'm a teenager just like the rest of you and I know what drugs do to people. I've seen and known many people and their lives are messed up. The people I know who do drugs scare me because I don't want them hurt and I know what's going to happen.

If you know of someone who is addicted to drugs,get them help. Most kids don't know this but aspirin, cough syrup, sleeping pills and diet pills are drugs too. So don't take them, only if you need them. Don't take sleeping pills or diet pills. You can harm your body.

I am concerned about the future generation and how this is going to affect them. I hope as you read this you will think about what you're going to choose, either saying no or yes to drugs.

Kids are often feeling forced into drugs because of peer pressure. Just remember that one time can lead to an addiction. The biggest most popular excuse given is "If I don't do them,people will think I'm a dork." I say let em think you're a dork. There's nothing wrong with telling your friends or anyone else no. If you start using them, then everything changes- your homework, your attitude towards people,the way you act, and the way you feel. So remember don't do drugs.

k. jack

R-Rated???Where?

Why can teens under eighteer walk into a movie rental store and rent a movie that is r-rated but when the same teen walks into a movie theater to see an r- rated film they are turned away?

Most of the population of teens today watch r-rated movies no matter if they go to the theater with anadult or if they rent the movie. It's unfair that we cannot watch an r-rated moive at the theater on our own.

Any teen will tell of times that they could walk into a movie rental store, show them the membership card and rent any movie in the store except pornographic movies. It is time the discrepency be resolved between what is allowed at the theaters and what is permitted at many video rental stores.

by j. dent

Good Times Staff -April 8 issue

Jennifer Cutler, Jessica Dent,Amanda Alexander, Lauren McKenzie, Kim Adkins, Brooke Guernsey, Seanna Sullivan, Amy Vincent, Rob Gehl,Brad Hassler. George Melichar, Josh White, Andy Goodman, Jericho Groenland, Jenny Kellerman, Jamie Mollitor, Angela Neumeier, Sarah Plucinski, Krist Jack, Anna Oliva,Jessica Surdy,and others.

Next meeting date is April 21, room 203 at 10:20.

Dear Good Times,

I write this article concerning last month's story about cliques. The person who described each clique or group wrote it because it was her own opinion. She felt really bad after it came out and some people were yelling at her, saying it was a lie. What these people don't understand it that she wrote it because that was her opinion. She was not naming names or pointing at certain people. If people don't like what is said here in the paper, they need to write a letter to the Good Times or say something to Mrs. Swanson. (who may suggest they write their opinion for the next issue.) When you holler at the writer, you hurt their feelings. After all, it was their opinion. Also if you don't know who wrote it, do not criticize or yell at other people. Thank you.

k. jack

Dear Good Times,

The person who wrote this article has misunderstanding oer what some of the groups are. My friends and I may considered preps but it doesn't mean that we don't understand other people's feelings. We don't only think of ouselves. I know there may be an exception to that because I know people can use people only for their own benefit but so can people in other groups. The person who wrote that article in February makes the popular or preppy people look really bad. I don't think that article was very fair.

k.v.

Tired of Egg Salad?

Ren and Stimpy juniors

grill 2 oz. turkey pastrami
1/4 cup sauerkraut
1 oz. swiss on 2 slices of rye

Cut into wedges. Serve with mustard.

Opinions, opinions, opinions

EASTER BUNNY - Is He For Real?

Do you believe in the Easter Bunny? Why or why not?

Zach Harling said ,"Yes, an alien told me he was real." Ryan Sibert said, "No I'm kind of confused. There is no such thing as a bunny who lays eggs. Chris Moore says, "I believe in Anything that brings gifts."

Dan Reits says, "Yes I do believe because he left footprints at our house." Andy Krause says, " No , Santa told he's not real." Tim Staggs said "Sure I believe. You're the Easter Bunny aren't you?"

Angela Edwards and Sam Meyer took opposite views. Angela said, " Yes because I saw him jump away with my candy" while Sam said, " No there is no rabbit six foot tall." Most of you concluded as did Chris Terry, "It's my dad in disguise."

Dumb Stuff We've Done ...

What kinds of dumb things di you do when you were " a kid"?

Seanna Sullivan dumped "dishwashing liquid all over th linoleum floor and slid around on it." Will McCorkle played superman and "slit my head open." Stacy Darr sat up all night when she was six to wait for the Easter Bunny.

Rabin Mahanty ate a brown crayola thinking it was a pretzel. Tara Anderson got her hair chopped off. Jeff Buckmaster got up early to look for the Easter Bunny.

Lisa Satayut painted the car Jessica Dent stuck her tongue c a frozen pipe. (Did it stick?) Brandon Bell jumped out of a window when he was three. Mike Shadley drank mud water and ate sand. (Yum, Mike.)

Erryn Rice swam in Lake Michigan in April. Katie Story filled the bath tub up and swam in it with all her stuffed animals. Levi Yadlocsky painte the fireplace with fingernail polish and cleaned the carpet with vasoline.

See p.4

More Dumb Stuff We've Done . . .

Jennifer Ayres ate dog food. Casey Mendenhall shaved her mole off. Winonah LaGrande remembers opening a box stuffed with newspapers at Christmas time and said happily, "They brought me trash."

Kristy Smith rode a horse backward by accident. Missy Forbes used to say goodnight to all my stuffed animals and I used to eat pudding with a straw. Mandy Pyard glued her hands to her pants. Angela Reidt let her mother pick out her clothes. (Aargh not that! What a fashion mistake.)

Dan Reits and Amy Weaver contend that they have never done anything dumb in their whole lives.

DEAR SAM,

Dear Sam,

I am a teacher and would like to kno how to best tell a student that they need to take care of their hygiene. Do you have any ideas?

Concerned teacher

Dear C.T.,

You could try having a full lesson on hygiene and try to make it clear to them but not rudely. Bring up a funny story about how you ran out of something in the shower.

sam

Dear Sam,

My parents think I'm a devil child and my older sister is an angel. It's the other way around. My sister changes her grades and I get B's and B-'s and she really gets a lot of F's.She's also smoking and they don't know it. How can I help herand tell my parents?

Crying out for help

Dear C.O.F.H.,

First I recommend you sit down with your sister and tell her of your concerns. Be there for her. She sounds confused.

DEAR SAM Continued . . .

Dear Sam,

When I came home from the hospital, we had a puppy named Chipper. He recently died of pneumonia. I have had him for twelve years. How can I cope with his death?

Sad

Dear S.,

To start you could give your dog a funeral. Take time to mourn him. Don't jump right away to get a new dog; some time in the future a new pet may ease the pain.

Dear SAm,

There's this person I like a lot but the person wouldn't give me the time of day. What should I do?

Help

Dear H.,

I believe you will probably get over the person. Obviously, there isn't much you can do except wait for things to pass.

Dear Sam,

I was recently taking a test and I was not aware that the person behind me was copying me. I got a detention. If I tell on them, they'll beat me up.

Running

Dear R.,

Serve the detention. There isn't much you can do. I would suggest that you keep your paper covered in the future.

Alone

I'm alone
only a mother to talk to
a father that lives too faraway,
brothers the same
I just sit here by myself
Alone.

k. adkins

Welcome Back, Mrs. Helland -

We would like to welcome back Mrs. Helland. She had a torn ligament in her back which caused a pinched nerve in her leg and left her flat on her back. When this reporter called her, she couldn't wait to get back and prepare for her Spring Concert.

The concert is set for May 13th. I will be called "Feature Presentation." It will include songs from "The Little Mermaid", "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aladdin."

Mrs. Helland is still going through physical therapy and we hope that she's feeling better.

s. plucinski

To Future Algebra Scholars

Hmm. What should I tell the next class about algebra. Bring a pencil. I can't stress the importance of that.

Get into the habit of being a neat freak. It'll help because you tend to be able to track down your homework better.

Hone your skills at pushing buttons especially on a calculator. It'll help when working on scientific notation.

Study, study, study and study some more.

Take notes and vocabulary.

If you have algebra in the morning, take caffeine in large doses, but remember caffeine withdrawal can be tough.

r.gehl

HARD TO EXPLAIN

It's hard to explain why the moon shines at night,
It's hard to explain why a lamp gives off light.
It's hard to explain why my heart beats so fast,
I't hard to explan how I know it won't last.
It's hard to explain why I think like I do.
It 's hard to explain why
I'll always love you.

by devon '93

A Soap Opera Premier

....a new soap opera makes its debut here in the pages of the Good Times.

The main characters are Tori, Ryan, Rylie, Lance, Jenna and Talar.

They were being bored at the mall. Lance decided they needed some excitement.

They spotted a new Daytona that was unlocked. Tori has an older brother named Jesse and he taught her how to hot wire a car. Jenna, Talar, and Rylie were against it at first but when Tori called them chickens, they gave in.

They were all riding down the road when they heard sirens up behind them. Then...

to be concluded in the May issue

by espinosa, dent and cutler

Mr. Topp Coaches Boxing

Mr. Topp, eighth and seventh grade science teacher, also coaches the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kalamazoo as a boxing coach.

His best player, Kelvin Hegwood, is going to the national boxing competition in Colorado Springs where the Olympic training center is located.

Kelvin's record is 4-3 because two losses were to a 119 lb. national champion. Kelvin has been chosen to captain his team.

Mr. Topp has trained a lot of the best young fighters to come out of Kalamazoo including Jesse Briseno, the Jacksons, Ray and Cliff, Raymond Pratt and David Lester.

Mr. Topp currently trains and works with 25 fighters.

Mr.Topp told us Kelvin, who is 20 years old, is excited about fighting in Colorado.

by anna and amy

Irritating Brothers

Do you have irritating brothers? I do. My brother, Matthew (15) is a protection maniac. He can also be very sick-minded. He act like Mr. Macho. He also makes rude comments and call his convertible his "baby". (now, what does that tell you?)

On the other hand, my brother Dwayne (17) is fun but he likes to call me some really irritating names. (which I won't mention here.)

Let's get some other views.

Nicci Pedersen said, " My brother is a conniving little twit. He is a dork. The most irritating thing he does is bug and pick on me."

Kristi Jack said, "My brother likes to pick on me and call me names. Everything else for that matter."

Karis Consolatti agreed with all the above saying, "It would take me three pages to describe my brother."

Let us hear from the other side. Brothers who don't irritate? Sisters who do? Write us care of Mrs. Swanson's mailbox in the office by May 1.

by k. adkins

How Come...

How come?

How come I'm always last?
How come weekends come so fast?
How come babies cry?
How come people have to die?
How come sisters are such a pain?
How come I can't take a trip to Maine?
How come jackets never last?
How come people are in a cast?
How come you started a fire?
How come people are admired?
How come you're always tired?
How come I'm always fired?

by d. summerville

Crazy Astrology

GOOFY Horoscopes (We certainly wouldn't print ones anyone would take seriously...)

Aquarius: Stay away from barking cats and tennis shoes with real tongues.

Capricorn: Avoid wood products; you could develop a rash... or a shop project.

Pisces: Hats that crawl are especially dangerous this month so take precautions: wear earmuffs.

Aries: Stay away from cats with pink eyes and blue fur. They can't be healthy if they look like that.

Taurus: Pepsi bottles and basketballs could be in your future. Attend the play-offs next month.

Gemini: Dark purple pants and shorts are not in your fashion future. They make you look pale. Avoid eating aluminum and other odd minerals.

Cancer: Don't catch it. It's not good. Also keep away from yogurt cultures. You don't know what's growing in them.

Leo: Strawberry jello and fruit cocktail are just what you need this month...indulge.

Virgo: Avoid tall people wearing capes; they may not be your type of people.

Libra: Don't eat bon-bons or gum; you never know where they came from or what they're made of.

Scorpio: Continue to be suspicious...of everything. It suits you.

Sagittarius: Avoid food before bed; you may have dreams of see-through people who float. (Shades of Christmas past)

Ghosts in the Old M.S.?

Many students claim to hear strange noises coming from many of the rooms in our school. Teachers make the excuse 'It's just the heater kicking on.' But really how many of us believe that? The school's usually at 20 below.

The other explanation teachers give is 'It's Mr. So and So's class moving their desks around.' Are the ghosts in the old locker rooms? What's going on down there anyway?

What about those small stone figures on the roof of the building? Are they mere figures or the bodies of trapped algebra students? Who knows? They may come alive at night and hide spelling books.

Where do the smoke smells come from in some first hour classes? Are these mystic vapors of the paranormal or just janitorial cigars wafting their fumes up the stairs?

What about the ghost in the auditorium? Does it exist? Or is it just the figment of the highly creative imagination of us reporters? Some of these questions will remain unanswered. As for us,we'll be back and remember this. Today's story, taken as you will in the Paw PAw zone.
Dododododododododoooo...

casper Alexander and beetlegeuse Neumeier

Clear Pepsi

Crystal pepsi. What is it? A clear cola. But how is it done? Do they use food coloring? Do they put in a clear mix? Do they gel it? Turn it into a liquid? Nobody knows.

So why make a clear cola? Probably to make a new image for cola. It's like Amoco's clear gasoline. Why clear? Why not red, white or blue?

a.goodman

FLASHES FROM OUR PAST

1974

Flash from the Past

The Good Times middle school paper first met the students of Paw PAw Middle School in 1974. Then it was called the Michigan Avenue Sum-it-up. A lot has changed since then.

In 1974 we were just coming out of the Vietnam war . Here is a poem printed in 1974,

Rosey Red
Skies that bled
War is gone.
It was a sad song.
People died
Many cried.
Now there's peace
Since wars have ceased.

a.b. and l.d.

(who? April Bryant? April Bentley?...anyone's older sisters or parents remember?)

In 1974 opinion polls asked students what activities they'd like to see at the m.s. 60 percent said dance and skating parties.

1975

In 1975 the name of the paper became the Good Times named after a current sitcom about city teens. That issue asked in a poll what "Hapaxlegomeon" meant. Students had no idea and guessed things like a shape, a hat,a drug, a communist sub, and a new Elton John song. The correct answer was " a word or form evidenced by a single occurrence."

1983

Eight years later in 1983 a short article was published on "Memories." I've been feeling kind of down about leaving the middle school lately. The article said,"The middle school is an important place for friends and for memories."

j.dent

Dumb Quotes

The fish don't smell underwater.

If the spaghetti smells like feet, don't eat it.

Don't chase the prancing goat.

The moose howls at 5:45/

Exploring the Depths of P.P.M.S.

WE are about to embark upon an adventure- the school basement. (Where are the violins when you need them?) A dungeon it is of sorts, complete with furry things crawling (or having crawled) on the floor.

Our basement is a very dark humid and strangely cold place. The air hangs motionless, heavy with the perfumes of rusted metal and mildew.

Desks and parts of lockers stacked high resemble bones and corpses discarded to rot in a mass grave.

A speck of white catches the eye and draws us over to a pile of bones bleached and tinged with charring; bones of some helpless creature trapped in the depths of the boiler room. (a dead bird who never found his way back to sunshine.)

Threading our way through the gloomy labyrinth-like passageways. the sounds of dripping water from the unseen (but no doubt corroded) pipes filled the air.

A crunch underfoot combined with the lack of lighting tugged at the corners of two overactive imaginations.

The way back caught our attentionto things we had passed by: the janitor's chemical closet, a dreadful "room" held together with rattling boards and rusty nails. Cans and jugs holding every imaginable kind of generic cleanser littered the floor.

The school lunch room has less oil than the dungeon (oops sorry- I mean basement) floor. Kitty litter appears to be in use to soak up some other unidentifiable ooze on the floor.

Are these squirrel bones we found? or the bones of a defenseless 6th grader who believe he had a class down one long-ago 2nd hour? We walked into the boiler room where we were overwhelmed by a massive white structure apparently looming int the air. Strips of cloth pile on the floor like misshapen rag dolls, victims of the non-existent mercy of the boiler.

Yes the boiler .. the answer we are constantly given for the rattles, moans and groans coming from the heating ducts.

Tune in next issue for the rest of the story. (As we encounter the auditorium)

by anna oliva and amy vincent

(and thank you's to Mr. Ruesink,Mrs. Smith , Mr. Snyder and all the other tour guides.)

Fashion News for '93

You may not believe it but the 70's fashions are coming back. You have to see it to believe it.

Crotcheted vests, halter tops, shawls, chokers, minnetonka moccasins, body suits, clogs, platforms, disco shoes, scoop neck dresses, cabana bell bottoms, sailor flares, peace signs, love and peace rings, love beads,elephant bells, mambo bells, hats for hair, knit sock caps, crimped hair, curly hair (grunge-inspired), straight hair, oversized floppy hats amd gypsy girl glamour. Should be a great season.

j.k.

Easter's History and Facts

Easter is the day of great joy for Christians. They believe that on the first Easter Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

In 325 A.D., a church council decided that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the verna: equinox. Since the full moon isn't on the same day each year Easter may fall between March 22 and April 25 year to year.

see p. 9 - Continued

Easter (continued from p.8)

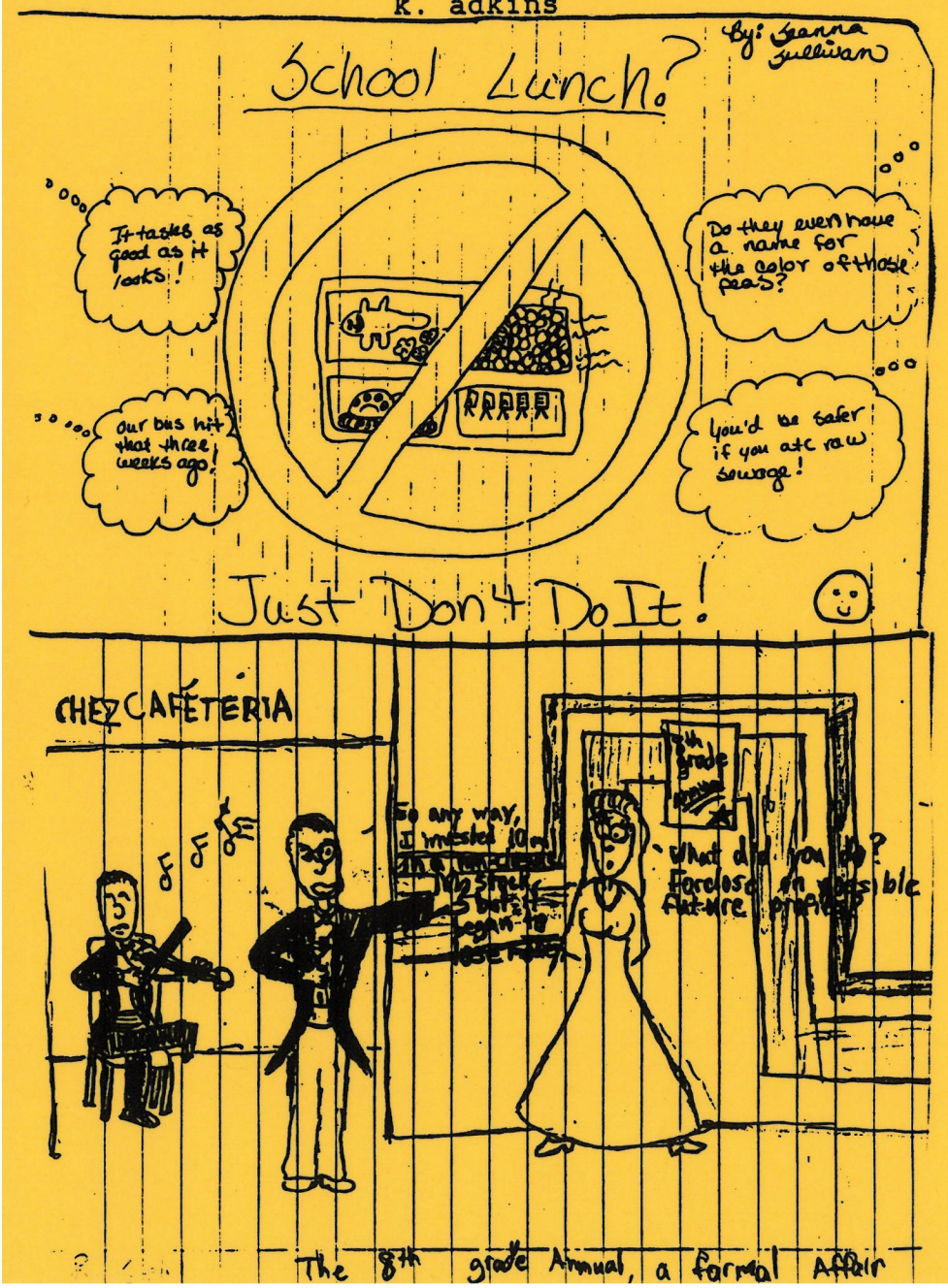
The week before Easter is called Holy Week. It begins with Palm Sunday which celebrates the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem and people scatterpalm leaves before him. Christ't Last Supper is celebrated on Maundy or Holy Thursday. The crucifixion is

commemorated on Good Friday.

On Easter Sunday many churches have special sunrise services . Easter lilies adorn churches. Eggs are also associated with Easter because they are a symbol of new life.

The idea of bunnies bringing baskets of eggs seems to originate in an old German folk tale.

k. adkins


School Lunch?
By: Joanna Sullivan
It tastes as good as it looks!
Do they even have a name for the color of those peas?
Our bus hit that three weeks ago!
You'd be safer if you ate raw sewage!
Just Don't Do It!
CHEZ CAFETERIA
8th grade annual
So anyway, I missed 10 on
what did you do?
Foreclosed on possible future prof
The 8th grade Annual, a formal Affair

Prescription for a Bad Day

You wake up and the furnace is dead. It's cold but a cup of hot coffee should help. You realize the filter can't be use until it's cleaned. When you ge it ready, you discover you forgot to buy coffee yesterday and you are all out.

You walk back upstairs and glance at the clock. Your alarm never went off and so you're late.

You hurriedly change, failin to notice your pants are on backwards.

You run out to the car. Of course it won't start. Yo grab a gas can and walk two miles through the snow to the gas station.

Ok, you have a nice quarter of a tank full, but the car stalls anyway. You call a cab.

You get to the office, and teach for your wallet, but it isn't there.

"Youse want to pay, bud?" says the cab driver, donning brass knuckles.

Ok a few bruises but hey you boss is mad, screaming mad. Tha should take your mind off the pain.

No work today. He fired you So you head back on the bus.

When you arrive home, you find a note from your spouse.

"I'Ve taken the kids and moved to Toledo. See you in court."

What a day. You lie down to take a nap and hope to wake up from this nightmare.

But it never does end. You lose half your possessions and you're finally admitted to the asylum a year later.

What a day.

r. gehl